

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SSC-01 AID-05 /070 W
----- 078628

R 071725Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6217

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL DOUALA BY POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 2302

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CM

SUBJECT: NEW GOVERNMENT NAMED

REF: YAOUNDE 2-20

1. NAMING OF PRIMIN ON JUNE 30 BY PRES AHIDJO MARKED END OF PERIOD OF GROWING ANTICIPATION AND SPECULATION DATING FROM PARTY CONGRESS IN FEB WHEN PRES ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION TO CREATE THAT NEW POST. PRES ALSO NAMED NEW GOVT, FIRST SIGNIFICANT RESHUFFLE SINCE 1972 WHEN CREATION OF UNITARY STATE BROUGHT PREVIOUS GOVT INTO BEING, AND NAMED NEW SECRETARY GENERAL AT THE PRESIDENCY.

2. PAST HAND AT KEEPING HIS INTENTIONS SECRET, PRES AHIDJO'S NOMINATIONS INVOLVE FEW SURPRISES AND SUGGEST NO SIGNIFICANT POLICY SHIFTS. NEW PRIMIN PAUL BIYA SERVED IN PREVIOUS GOVT AS MINISTER

OF STATE AND SEC GEN AT PRESIDENCY AND HAD BEEN
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VIEWED AS MOST LOGICAL CANDIDATE FOR THE POST. HIS PRESENT

PREROGATIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES HAVE NOT CHANGED APPRECIABLY BUT ARE MORE CLEARLY DEFINED. NEW SECRETARY GENERAL, SAMUEL EBOUA, WHO PREVIOUSLY HELD IMPORTANT POST OF PRESIDENT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CAMEROON AIRLINES HAS RANK OF MINISTER OF STATE BUT UNLIKE PREDECESSOR IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT.

3. OF PRESENT THIRTY CABINET POSTS, 24 ARE AT MINISTERIAL AND 6 AT VICE MINISTERIAL LEVELS, COMPARED TO 24 AND 4 RESPECTIVELY IN PREVIOUS CABINET. OF MINISTERIAL POSTS, FOUR ARE AT MINISTER OF STATE LEVEL (CONTRASTED WITH TWO EARLIER) AS REWARD TO SEVERAL PERENNIAL MINISTERS.

4. 21 OF 30 CABINET POSTS ARE HELD BY CARRY-OVERS FROM PREVIOUS CABINET, ALBEIT WITH SOME SHIFTS IN FUNCTIONS. OF NINE NEWCOMERS, FOUR ARE MINISTERS AND FIVE ARE VICE MINISTERS. NEWCOMERS CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS TECHNOCRATS AND PROJECT DEFINITELY YOUTHFUL IMAGE. AVERAGE AGE OF NINE IS JUST UNDER 35, YOUNGEST BEING 28.

5. WOMEN'S LIB GIVEN SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE BOOST IN REPRESENTATION. MME. DELPHINE TSANGA, FORMER VICE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND ONLY WOMAN IN PREVIOUS CABINET, BECOMES FULL MINISTER AT HEAD OF SEPARATE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS. US-EDUCATED MRS. DOROTHY NJEUMA BECOMES VICE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

6. REGIONAL AND TRIBAL BALANCE WITHIN GOVT NOT SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED. IN MOST INSTANCES, OUTGOING MINISTER REPLACED BY MINISTER OF SAME ETHNIC ORIGIN. NUMBER OF ANGLOPHONE MINISTERS REMAINS AT 7.

7. CHANGES OF SPECIAL INTEREST ARE:

A. DEPARTURE OF FONMIN EFON. PERSONABLE BUT SOMEWHAT COLORLESS, EFON WAS PRINCIPAL AND ASSIDUOUS CAMEROONIAN REP ON VARIOUS OAU COMMITTEES. DISMISSAL WAS GENERALLY UNEXPECTED AND EXPLAINED IN SOME CIRCLES, NOT NECESSARILY WELL INFORMED, AS DUE TO "FAMILY" CONSIDERATIONS.

B. NEW FONMIN KEUTCHA RESUMES POST AS FONMIN WHICH HE HELD 1971-72 AND FOR WHICH HE HAD LITTLE TASTE OR SPECIAL COMPETENCE. BASICALLY COOPERATIVE AND WELL DISPOSED, HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOMINATION INDICATES, NEVERTHELESS, THAT PRES WILL CONTINUE, AS ALL EXPECTED, TO DOMINATE FOREIGN POLICY AREA WITH FONMIN IN ONLY SPOKESMAN ROLE.

C. SHIFT OF OWANA AWANA FROM INFLUENTIAL POST OF

FINANCE MINISTER TO LESS IMPRESSIVE INSPECTORATE POST SUGGESTS A DOWNGRADING UNLESS PRES IS SERIOUSLY DETERMINED THAT ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM MANDATE OF INSPECTORATE IS TO

BE CARRIED OUT.

D. APPOINTMENT OF MARCEL YONDO TO FINMINISTRY GENERALLY WELCOMED. YONDO IS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT TECHNOCRAT WHO HAS MOVED IN FOUR YEARS FROM POST AS TECHNICAL ADVISOR AT PRESIDENCY TO THAT OF NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF BANK OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES AND NOW TO THAT OF MINISTER. BUSINESS COMMUNITY HOPEFUL THAT HIS APPOINTMENT PORTENDS MORE UNDERSTANDING AND REASONABLENESS ON PART OF PROCEDURE-BOUND AND UNBENDING FINMINISTRY.

E. YOUSSEUFA DAOUDA, ANOTHER YOUNG MINISTER WHOSE STAR HAS BEEN RISING RAPIDLY, TAKES OVER MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND PLAN, A MERGER OF FORMER MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTRY OF PLAN. DAOUDA FAVORABLY REGARDED BY BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

F. SENGAT-KUO, MINISTER, ASST SEC GEN OF PRESIDENCY, IN PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT MIGHT NORMALLY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED LOGICAL SUCCESSOR TO BIYA IN SEC GEN POST. HIS APPT AS MINISTER IN CHARGE OF MISSIONS (NOT MINISTER OF STATE AS ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED IN YAOUNDE 2220) MAY MARK SLIGHT FALL FROM GRACE AND POWER, BUT IT MORE LIKELY THAT AHIDJO WISHES HIM TO SHED ADMINISTRATION CHORES TO SERVE AT WHAT HE DOES MOST EFFECTIVELY, ACTING AS HIS IDEOLOGICAL MENTOR, SPEECHWRITER, AND MAIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR.

8. ON BALANCE, NEW GOVT STRIKES US AS SOMEWHAT BETTER GEARED TO PROBLEMS AND POLICIES AT MOMENT THAN WAS OLD. EMB SEES NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN, INDEED SOME OPTIMISM REGARDING USG'S PAROCHIAL EQUITIES IN WAKE OF CHANGES.

9. FURTHER DETAILS FOLLOWING BY POUCH.
MOORE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975YAOUND02302
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750234-0370
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750779/aaaacspw.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 YAOUNDE 2-20
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW GOVERNMENT NAMED
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CM, (BIYA, PAUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006